

Waste Reduction Goal Task Force
BREIFING PAPER
For
Landfill Bans in EPA Region IV

Background:

Efforts to reduce disposed solid waste and help encourage reduction, reuse and recycling can result in the banning of certain materials from landfills. In some states, materials capable of being recycled, e.g., corrugated cardboard, office papers, glass and metal beverage containers, white goods (appliances), auto salvage, yard trimmings, etc., are not accepted at landfills. The reuse or recycling of these items not only reduces landfill volume, thereby extending the life of that facility, but also helps preserve our natural resources.

Other landfill bans may be imposed on materials that might be considered to be hazardous or otherwise undesirable, e.g., lead-acid batteries, certain dry cell batteries, used oil and other automotive fluids, household hazardous waste, whole or shredded tires, mercury, or lead containing devices, free liquids, etc. Most of these materials are banned by U.S. EPA standards.

One problem with implementing landfill bans is the stress this puts on existing infrastructure. Wastes that are not allowed in a landfill must go somewhere. If there is not adequate recycling infrastructure or end markets for materials that are banned the material frequently ends up in unpermitted dumps and along roads.

Currently, Tennessee bans whole tires, automotive fluids, lead-acid batteries, mercury containing devices, and free liquids.

The following is a list by state of the landfill bans that are in effect in neighboring Region IV states:

Alabama:

Free liquids, septic tank pumping, and hazardous waste from Large Quantity Generators.

Florida:

Tires, automotive fluids, lead-acid batteries, mercury containing devices, free liquids, white goods and yard waste in Class I landfills.

Georgia:

Tires, automotive fluids, lead-acid batteries, mercury containing devices, free liquids, and yard waste in Class I landfills.

Kentucky:

Tires, automotive fluids, lead-acid batteries, mercury containing devices, and free liquids.

Mississippi:

Tires, automotive fluids, lead-acid batteries, mercury containing devices, and free liquids.

North Carolina:

Tires, automotive fluids, lead-acid batteries, mercury containing devices, free liquids, aluminum cans, white goods, yard waste and oyster shells in Class I landfills. Beginning in 2009, plastic bottles, oil filters and pallets will be banned. In 2012, computers will no longer be accepted.

South Carolina:

Tires, automotive fluids, lead-acid batteries, mercury containing devices, free liquids, white goods and yard waste in Class I landfills.

Issues:

To be Determined by Task Force

Focus Questions:

1. Should certain materials be banned from class I landfills statewide? If so, what materials?
2. Should certain materials be banned by local governments from class I landfills? If so, what materials?
3. What infrastructure needs should be considered prior to banning materials from a class I landfill?
4. How should infrastructure needs be funded?
5. Should the bans be incorporated into any goal or metric used to determine compliance towards waste reduction goals? If so, how?
6. Should there be specific incentives or disincentives put in place for local governments in the use of bans to meet the statewide or municipal solid waste region's goals?
7. What would be the lead-time on the implementation of any landfill ban?
8. Should the state require all local governments to apply local controls and management of banned materials?
9. Should there be a differential fee applied to different materials?

10. Should partial bans be explored by the State? If so, how should they be implemented?